

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 14-17 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 9 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9, 10, and 19 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, by this Amendment, Applicants amend independent claims 1 and 11 to include the features of claims 9 and 19, respectively. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in immediate condition for allowance.

Since the amendment does not require any further search and/or consideration, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 11, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wall *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,970,556, hereinafter “Wall”) in view of Altschul *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,405,056, hereinafter “Altschul”). Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wall in view of Altschul, and further in view of Nebiker *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 7,054,423, hereinafter “Nebiker”).

Applicants do not acquiesce to the rejections. In order to expedite prosecution, however, Applicants amend claims 1 and 11 to include the features of allowable claims 9 and 19, respectively. Accordingly, the prior art rejection of the claims is rendered moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 3, 2008

/Quadeer A. Ahmed/
Quadeer A. Ahmed
Registration No. 60,835